

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1, 3-6, 9-14, 16-23, and 25-35 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 7, 8, 15, and 24 have been canceled by this amendment. Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.111, Applicant respectfully requests entrance of this amendment on the present application. The Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests an early notice of Allowance or other favorable action. Please charge any prosecution fees which are due, including those associated with the presentation of additional independent claims, to Kimberly-Clark Corporation's Deposit Account No. 11-0875.

The Examiner has rejected original claims 1-14, 18, 23, 31, and 32 as obvious under 35 USC §103(a). Additionally, the Examiner objected to claims 15-17, 19-21, 24-30, 33, and 34 as being dependent upon a rejected claim base. The Examiner noted that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of any intervening claims. The Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions and as such, the 35 USC §103(a) rejections are now considered moot.

More specifically, regarding each of the objected claims in turn:

Original claim 15 depended from claim 1 and claim 2. Claim 1 as amended incorporates the limitations of original claims 1, 2, and 15 therein.

Original claims 16 and 17 depended directly from claim 15 and as such have been amended to depend directly from amended claim 1.

Original claim 19 depended from claim 1 and claim 2. Claim 19 as amended incorporates the limitations of original claims 1, 2, and 19 therein.

Original claims 20 and 21 each depended directly from claim 1. Claims 20 and 21 as amended are now independent claims each incorporating their original limitations in addition to the limitations of original claim 1.

Original claim 24 depended directly from claim 22. Claim 22 as amended incorporates the limitations of original claims 22 and 24 therein.

Original claims 25-30 depended from claim 24 but have been amended to depend directly from claim 22.

Original claims 33 and 34 each depended directly from claim 22. Claims 33 and 34 as amended are now independent claims each incorporating their original limitations in addition to the limitations of original claim 22.


As for the rejected claims, claims 3-6, 9-14, and 18 depend from amended claim 1 and as such incorporate all the limitations of claim 1 therein. Claims 23, and 31-32 depend from amended claim 22 and as such incorporate all the limitations of claim 22 therein.

As for claim 35, claim 35 was allowed as originally presented to the Examiner.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the analysis provided in the Office Action, for noting the allowable and objected claims, and for advising the Applicants of the additional art made of record but not relied upon.

In conclusion, respectfully submit that the present claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early notice of Allowance or other favorable action. Please charge any prosecution fees which are due to Kimberly-Clark Corporation's Deposit Account No. 11-0875. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at his convenience should only minor issues remain after consideration of the present amendment to permit early resolution of the same.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Laura L. Rubino, hereby certify that on August 11, 2004, this document is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office Fax No. 703-872-9306.


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